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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

461

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Preliminary Planning for an  
Eventual Military Move Against  
the Chilean Government

Enclosed is an Intelligence Information Special Report which I believe merits your personal attention because it reports the plans of certain senior officers of the Chilean Armed Forces to take action against the Marxist Government of Salvador Allende.

[Redacted Signature]

Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director for Plans-

Enclosure:

[Redacted Enclosure]

Approved for Release  
July 2000

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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## Intelligence Information Special Report

COUNTRY Chile/Cuba

DATE OF [REDACTED] 1971  
FO.

DATE 9 November 1971

SUBJECT

Preliminary Planning for an Eventual Military Move  
Against the Chilean Government

SOURCE [REDACTED]

Summary: Certain senior Army, Navy, and Carabinero officers have decided on the overthrow of the Chilean Government some time in the spring of 1972. As yet there is only a rough outline of a plan. The leader of the movement is [REDACTED]. Most regimental commanders are committed. Resistance is expected to come from leftist forces, who are believed to have received arms from Cuba. The coup would start when the Government calls a state of emergency, expected to occur when the economy deteriorates about March 1972. End Summary.

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] declared that most key regimental commanders of the Chilean Army agree on the need for military intervention in Chilean politics and are ready to move against the Popular Unity (U.P.) Government, whenever the order for such a move is given. [REDACTED] the Army officers who support his position are in contact with senior officials of the Navy and Carabineros (national police), who also favor a military move against the Government. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] estimated that the military takeover could occur approximately in March 1972. [REDACTED] believes the deteriorating Chilean economy will have reached critical proportions by that date, obliging the Government to declare a state of emergency to maintain civil order. At this time the military, which would be mobilized as a result of the state of emergency, would take over the reins of the Government and arrest and deport key U.P. leaders. [REDACTED] since the Armed Forces would confront a substantial armed guerrilla force, they could not take the initiative to seize and hold the three principal cities of Chile (Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion) without some pretext. [REDACTED] the best course of action would be to wait until the Government declares an emergency, which would facilitate a military takeover. [REDACTED] said the Armed Forces have an arrest list which, although it has been in existence for some time, has been kept up to date.

3. [REDACTED] principal problem is lack of information but he was not specific. [REDACTED] Comment: He presumably meant information on pro-Government forces) He understands the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has some 15,000 people throughout the country who are equipped with light arms. [REDACTED] Comment: This figure appears exaggerated. The figure of 2,000 [REDACTED] seems more realistic.) He said he knows containers of arms have arrived on ships from Cuba, marked for the Presidency. They are passed unopened by customs officials. There is no information on where the arms are cached.

[REDACTED]

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